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## OLR Bill Analysis

### sSB 1102

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING AUTHORIZATION OF STATE GRANT COMMITMENTS FOR SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS AND THE CREATION OF A SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS ADVISORY COUNCIL.***

#### **SUMMARY:**

This bill authorizes \$284.9 million in grant commitments for 22 new local school construction, vocational agriculture (vo-ag), and interdistrict magnet school projects. It also reauthorizes and changes grant commitments for five previously authorized projects with significant changes in cost and scope, three for the first time and two for the second. (By law, districts are limited to two reauthorizations.) Of the five reauthorizations, two are reauthorized at reduced, and three at increased, cost. The total net increase in grant commitments for the reauthorizations is \$1.85 million.

The bill also creates a seven-member School Building Projects Advisory Council consisting of state officials and gubernatorial appointees. It requires the council to (1) develop model blueprints for new school building projects; (2) carry out studies, research, and analyses; and (3) recommend improvements in school construction processes to the State Board of Education.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Upon passage for the school project authorizations and reauthorizations; July 1, 2011 for the School Building Projects Advisory Council.

#### **SCHOOL PROJECTS**

##### ***New Authorizations***

Table 1 shows the 22 new school projects the bill authorizes. Projects are listed alphabetically by district.

**Table 1: New School Construction Projects Authorized**

<i><b>District</b></i>	<i><b>School</b></i>	<i><b>Project</b></i>	<i><b>Estimated Cost</b></i>	<i><b>Estimated Grant</b></i>	<i><b>State Reimbursement</b></i>
Bridgeport	Black Rock School	Extension & alteration/site purchase	\$12,000,000	\$9,385,200	78.21%
Bridgeport	Harding High School	New school	78,254,163	61,202,581	78.21%
Bridgeport	Central High School	Extension & alteration	73,418,940	57,420,953	78.21%
Bridgeport	Dunbar School	Alteration/energy conservation	8,807,099	6,888,032	78.21%
Capitol Region Education Council (CREC)	CREC Academy of Aerospace	New magnet school/ site purchase	67,393,000	64,023,350	95.0%
CREC	CREC Discovery Academy	New magnet school/ site purchase	31,975,000	30,376,250	95.0%
CREC	CREC Museum Academy	New magnet school/ site purchase	31,961,000	30,362,950	95.0%
Cheshire	Cheshire High School	Energy conservation	209,101	90,353	43.21%
Cheshire	Norton School	Energy conservation	500,000	205,350	41.07%
Connecticut Science Center	Connecticut Science Center	Alteration/energy conservation/ interdistrict magnet school	1,500,000	1,425,500	95.0%
Fairfield	Fairfield Woods Middle School	Extension & alteration	24,453,000	6,374,897	26.07%
Milford	Pumpkin Delight School	Code violation	500,000	194,650	38.93%
Milford	Jonathan Law High School	Extension & alteration/energy conservation	5,500,000	2,141,150	38.93%
Milford	Joseph A. Foran High School	Extension & alteration/energy conservation	10,400,000	4,048,720	38.93%
New Britain	Diloreto Magnet School	Extension & alteration	10,000,000	7,929,000	79.29%
Oxford	Great Oak Middle School	Alteration/energy conservation	910,791	465,141	51.07%
Region 4	John Winthrop Middle School	Energy conservation	994,000	426,028	42.86%
Region 14	Nonnewaug High School	Vo-ag center alteration	192,500	182,875	95.0%
Region 19	E.O. Smith High School	Vo-ag center equipment	590,062	560,559	95.0%
Stratford	Bunnell High School	Alteration/code violation	1,357,000	654,210	48.21%
Weston	Weston High School	Energy conservation	1,175,460	251,901	21.43%
Weston	Weston Middle School	Energy conservation/code violation	1,395,150	298,981	21.43%

### ***Reauthorized Projects***

Table 2 lists the five projects proposed for reauthorization because

of a significant (more than 10%) change in cost or scope.

**Table 2: Reauthorization of Previously Authorized Projects**

<i>District</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Current Grant Authorization</i>	<i>Proposed Grant Authorization</i>	<i>Change</i>
<b>FIRST REAUTHORIZATION</b>					
Cromwell	Cromwell Middle School	Alteration/ energy conservation	\$1,248,987	\$622,212	(\$626,775)
Cromwell	Edna Stevens School	Alteration/ energy conservation	1,873,734	507,607	(1,366,127)
Waterbury	Waterbury Career Academy	New school	50,163,802	53,576,883	3,413,081
<b>SECOND REAUTHORIZATION</b>					
Montville	Leonard J. Tyl School	Energy conservation/code violation	\$676,947	\$887,461	\$210,514
West Hartford	King Philip Middle School	Alteration	589,960	808,072	218,112

## **§ 2 — SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Under the bill, the council members are:

1. the Office of Policy and Management secretary or the secretary's designee;
2. the commissioners of Administrative Services and Public Works or their designees;
3. three members appointed by the governor, one of whom must have school construction, one architectural, and one engineering, experience; and
4. a representative of the State Department of Education's school facilities unit, who must serve as council chairperson.

The council must meet at least four times annually.

## **BACKGROUND**

### ***School Construction Grants***

The state reimburses school districts for between 20% and 80% of the eligible costs of local school construction projects. The reimbursement rate depends mostly on town wealth but districts may receive a higher reimbursement for certain types of projects, such as

those involving space for school-readiness programs or full-day kindergarten. In addition, certain types of interdistrict projects (vocational agricultural centers, regional special education facilities, and interdistrict magnet schools) are reimbursed at the rate of 95% of eligible costs. Districts also receive a 10-percentage-point bonus for projects undertaken in cooperation with one or more other districts. Board of education central administration facility projects are reimbursed at half the district's otherwise applicable rate. Grants are paid from state general obligation (GO) bond funds.

***Related Bill***

sSB 1006, An Act Concerning Certain Bond Authorizations for Capital Improvements, reported favorably by the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee on April 18, 2011, authorizes up to \$523 million in GO bonds for FY 12 and up to \$584 million for FY 13 for school construction projects.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 32 Nay 0 (03/25/2011)

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 52 Nay 0 (04/21/2011)